

LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORTS for the Year 1948

of the Medical Officer of Health W. H. BUTCHER, v.r.d., m.a., d.m., d.p.h., Barrister - at - Law, Surgeon Commander R.N.V.R.(ret)

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Wellcome Library

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Report to the Local Sanitary Authority and my Report to the Port Health Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1948, was 7,240 as compared with one of 6,941 for the mid-year 1947.

I am indebted to the Council's Financial Officer who has supplied me with the following figures:—

Area in Acres	* * * *		10,595
Number of inhabited	houses according	to rate books	2,116
Rateable Value	••••		£25,248
Sum represented by	a Penny Rate		£100

The District consists of the country town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and parts of Carlin How, and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington and Cowbar. These are situated amidst agricultural lands, while to the south rise moors to the height of nearly 1,000 feet. To the north there is a coastline of bold cliffs attaining a height of 699 feet above the sea, the highest cliff in England and Wales, with here and there a sandy cove. The principal industries are the great Skinningrove Iron & Steel Works and agriculture. Some ironstone mining is still carried on although on a much diminished scale. Full employment was maintained in the District throughout the year, an important factor in the maintenance of health, both physical and mental.

It is one hundred years since the first medical officer of health was appointed to any area. In that one hundred years great advances have been made in creating a healthier material environment, in the betterment of the physical condition of the people, in the removal from our midst of sudden catastrophies due to the acute infections and in a marked reduction in the insidious ravages of tuberculosis. But against this background of gain there appear certain sinister features. There is an increase in those diseases that are related to the reactions, not only of the individual's body, but also of his mind, to his total environment. I refer specifically on a later page to cardiovascular disease; there are, however, other diseases and their incidence is not shown in the mortality tables. I get the impression that a goodly proportion of the house wives suffer from mild but definite psycho-neuroses. The men appear pre-occupied. Never have more people travelled than travel to-day and never have I seen people travel less joyfully. Has the joy and the zest of life passed from us?

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

	OI DE		
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid		AALE	FEMALE
Cerebro-spinal fever			
Scarlet Fever	****		
Whooping Cough	• • • •		
Diphtheria			
Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys.			
Other Forms of Tuberculos		1	
0 1 111 1 70 1		a-manage	
Influenza	****	•—•	
Manulan	***		1
Ac. Poliomyl. & Enceph.			<u> </u>
A 1 (2 T2 1	••••		
Cancer of mouth & gullet &		(I) 1	
uterus (I		_	
Cancer of Stomach & Duoc	*	3	1
Cancer of Breast			1
Cancer of all other sites		7	3
Diabetes	••••		
Intracranial Vascular lesion		3	8
Heart Diseases	****	8	10
Other diseases of Circ. Syst	tem	3	2
Bronchitis		1	_
Pneumonia	••••	1	-
Other Resp. dis.			
Ulcer of stomach or duoder	num	_	
Diarrhoea under 2 years	••••	-	
Appendicitis	••••	_	
Other digestive diseases	••••	_	1
Nephritis	• • • • •	2	
Puerp. and post. abort. sep	sis.	·	_
Other maternal causes	• • • •	-	-
Premature births		1	-
Congen. malform., birth in	juries and		
infantile diseases	• • • •		1
Suicide		_	_
Road Traffic accidents	****	1	
Other violent causes	• • • •		1
All other causes	••••	1	1
ALL CAUSES	••••	34	28

Deaths.

62 deaths of residents give a death-rate of 8.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 10.8 in England and Wales. Of these 62 deaths no fewer than 34 were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, i.e. cardiovascular disease. In fact cardiovascular disease has become verily the Captain of the death of men, striking down in the fifties and early sixties active persons in the prime of their experience and wisdom. The reason for this mortality is only surmised; the stress and strain of modern life is a favourite explanation, but surmise is not knowledge. Certainly those who lead an active and harassed existence, those who have weighty responsibilities in the conduct of affairs appear to succumb most readily. It is a subject that might well be investigated in the field by medical officers of health for their work gives them a unique knowledge of populations and environment, were they less occupied with the daily routine of their duties.

	TAI	BLE II	
	Live	Births	
		MALE	FEMALE
Total	×***	73	61
Legitimate	****	72	54
Illegitimate	••••	1	7
	Still	Births	
		Male	FEMALE
Total	****	2	
Legitimate	****	1	_
Illegitimate		1	
	Deaths	of Infants	
	(under 1	year of age)	
		MALE	PEMALE
Total	****	1	1
Legitimate	****	1	1
Illegitimate	****	_	

Births.

The number of births registered in the District during the year is 134 giving a birth-rate of 18.5 per thousand of the population, compared to one of 17.9 per thousand of the population in England and Wales. 2 infants under the age of 1 year died giving an infantile mortality rate of 15 per thousand births compared to one of 34 for England and Wales. 1 am very glad to be able to report this remarkably low figure and also the absence of deaths from puerperal and other maternal causes.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1948
(other than Tuberculosis)
TABLE III.

	Hosp.	-				1
	65—		-			
	45—		т.	_		
	35—	1		_		
	25-	C1	C1			1
	15	1			7	1
	10—			1		1
111:	5	v.		1	13	т.
IABLE	-1			l	4	7
	m	Cl	1	1	8	ν.
	CI	. 1	1	1	7	9
	l year	_	1		_	7
	Under 1 year 1 year	1	1	I	ĸ	_
	All	2	∞	~1	35	29
			*	b b u	:	:
		Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table III shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the District, except tuberculosis.

Diphtheria. No case was notified. Immunization was available to children either at the hands of the family doctor or at the school clinic of the North Riding Education Authority at Carlin How. During the year 135 children in the 0—4 age group were immunized and 25 children in the 5—14 age group while 28 children already immunized received each a single reinforcing dose. Since diphtheria is most fatal to children in 0—4 age group, the success or otherwise of any Immunization Scheme can be judged by the number protected in this group. The figure of 135 children compared to 134 children born appears to me a most excellent response.

Measles and Whooping Cough. I arranged on 5th July to inform the health visitors of any cases occurring in the District. She visits the house and repeats the visit at the end of three weeks. Coughs, sore eyes or running ears are often found to have commenced after one or other of these diseases. I think that this arrangement makes good use of the information received by notification and should help to reduce ill health following these diseases.

Tuberculosis. 2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, one in a male aged 64 and the other in a female aged 36. I new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified in a female aged 30. During the year I arranged for the Health visitor to visit each newly notified case and to report on the social circumstances of the patient.

SECTION III Milk Supplies.

Two samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test with satisfactory results. Of the 159 cowsheds in the District, 102 were inspected during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hollis, involving a total of 112 inspections.

SECTION IV Water Supplies.

The statutory water undertaking for the District is the Cleveland Water Company. As regards the wholesomeness of the water supplied it is of the highest quality; regarding quantity the position in some parts of the distribution system is not at all times satisfactory. Two private supplies belonging to the Zetland Estates and to the Liverton Estates respectively supply an appreciable number of dwellings.

The rest of the district is supplied by small private reservoirs, by springs, or by wells. In most cases these supplies are inadequate in quantity and in some cases of questionable wholesomeness. The low rainfall since August pressages further shortages unless heavy and continuous rains occur. The only effective solution of the unsatisfactory water situation in this District is the commencement and the speedy completion of the

Scaling Scheme. As a result of complaints of taste and smell in the water supplied to certain streets in Liverton Mines I investigated the matter, visited the houses and inspected the gathering ground, taking three samples and submitting two to both chemical and bacteriological examination and one to chemical examination only. I was able to confirm the taste of sulphuretted hydrogen on two occasions. The results of these analyses are given in Table IV. The mains in the streets affected were cleaned by the Liverton Estates. Afterwards I visited one of the houses where I previously noticed the taste complained of and could not detect any on drinking the water. I understand that the water remains free from taste and odour.

TABLE IV

Sample taken from Mains Tap, Scullery, of 6 Downe Street, Liverton Mines, 3/3/48

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Slight opalescence with a very slight deposit of iron.

Appearance:	Oxide.
-------------	--------

Colour (Hazen) Yellow-brow	vn,	Turbidity (Silica Sc	ale) 8
filtered	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH. On the acid s	ide		
of neutrality	6.7	Free Carbon Dioxid	e 57
Electric Conductivity at 20	C. 500	Total Solids, dried a	at 180 C. 335
Chlorine in Chlorides	33	Alkalinity as Calciur	m Carbonate 200
Hardness: Total 230 Car	rbonate (Tempora	ry) 200 Non-Carb	onate (Permanent) 30
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in	4 hrs. at 27°C. 0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Residual Chlorinc	Absent
Metals: Iron 0.34.	Manganese	0.05	Other Metals absent

Bacteriological Results

	I day at 37°C.	2 days at 37 (C. 3 days at 20 C.
Number of Colonies developing			
on Agar per cc. or ml. in	0	0	3
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml
Bact. coli	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml

This sample has slight opalescence and deposit due to the presence of a trace of iron which causes perceptible though not pronounced turbidity. It is free from other metals apart from a negligible trace of manganese. The water is faintly acid in reaction and has a high content of free carbon dioxide thus indicating a tendency to be corrosive towards metals although no plumbo-solvent would be expected. It is hard in character but not unduly so, contains no excess of salinity and mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the slight objection that it is not quite clear and bright in appearance.

TABLE IV—continued.

Sample taken from Scullery Tap from Mains at 33 Graham St., Liverton Mines 13.9.48.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Opalescent with a very slight deposit of iron oxide together with a very slight growth of Crenothrix.

Colour (Hazen) Slight ye	llow-brown	Turbidity (Silica Sca	le) 22
Filtered	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	6.8	Free Carbon Dioxide	47
Electric Conductivity at 2	0 C. 490	Total Solids, dried at	180 C. 330
Chlorine in Chlorides	34	Alkalinity as Calcium	Carbonate 205
Hardness: Total 235.	Carbonate (Temp	orary) 205. Non-Carbo	onate (Permanent) 30
Nitrogen in Nitrates		Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in	4 hrs. at 27 C. 0.20
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Iron 0.68.	Manganese 0.10.	Other metals absent

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37 C.	2 days at 37 (C. 3 days at 20 C.
Number of Colonies developing		·	
on Agar per cc. or ml. in	0	0	5
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml
Bact. coli	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in—	Absent from	100 ml

This sample has opalescence and deposit giving rise to very distinct turbidity due to the presence of an objectionable trace of iron. It is free from other metals apart from a minute trace of manganese. The water is on the acid side of neutrality, has a high content of free carbon dioxide and a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. It is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for consumption but the amount of iron is greater than is considered satisfactory for domestic purposes.

No odour was detected in the sample as received, but an odour of sulphuretted hydrogen in the water at the point of sampling is consistent with the ferruginous condition and does not relate to a state of pollution. The iron may be present in the water at source, or due to corrosive characteristics, arise through action on the pipes or tanks of the distribution system. In the former case iron removal is required, in the second efficient aeration would dissipate a large proportion of the free carbon dioxide and restrain corrosive activity. Iron removal, if it should be required, would also incorporate aeration.

TABLE IV—continued.

SAMPLE TAKEN FROM TANK AT SOURCE.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a very slight deposit of mineral and traces of organic debris together with a few threads of Crenothrix.

		Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 5
Colour (Hazen)	less than 10	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	6.8	Free Carbon Dioxide	41
Electric Conductivity at	20 C. 490	Total Solids, dried at 180	C. 330
Chlorine in Chlorides	32	Alkalinity as Calcium Carl	bonate 180
Hardness: Total 220.	Carbonate (Temp	orary) 180 Non-carbonate	(Permanent) 40
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.	at 27 C. 0.15
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.010	Residual Chlorine	—
Metals: Iron 0.13.	Manganese 0.66.	Other metals absent.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron and a very appreciable trace of manganese. The reaction of the water is on the acid side of neutrality due to a comparatively high content of free carbon dioxide which will result in the water having a corrosive tendency. The water is hard in character but is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality is of the highest standard, and no odour of sulphuretted hydrogen was detectable in the sample.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Its content of manganese, however, is greater than desirable from the aspect of maintaining a supply of satisfactory clarity in distribution.

SECTION V.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

2 samples of milk procured by the Inspectors of the North Riding County Council and submitted to the County Analysts were found to be of inferior quality as regards milk fat.

The cleanly handling of food and the cleanliness and health of food handlers remain matters that intimately concern the public health. Hands frequently washed and crockery, cutlery and utensils adequately washed in plenty of hot water should be within reach of all. Those who handle food, whether milkers, cooks, the vendors of icecream, pies, cakes, etc., should be scrupulously careful about the condition of their teeth, throats, skin and bowels and should they suffer any disorder of these should stand off their work as food handlers until the condition has been remedied. The milker with a mouth full of carious teeth, the icecream vendor with a whitlow, or a cook with diarrhoea are all potential dangers to the public and in many cases actual spreaders of food infections far and wide.

SECTION VI

I am indebted to Mr. E. Hollis, your Sanitary Inspector, for the figures produced in the table below.

TABLE V.

		DUSING STA	TISTICS			
Numb	per of new houses completed	d in 1948:				
	(a) Council		• •		0 0 0 0	15
	(b) Other	••••				I
	pection of dwelling-houses du					
(l) (a) Total number of c			or housing	defects	
	`	Health or Hous				163
	(b) Number of inspection				• • • •	259
(.	2) (a) Number of dwelling					
		nspected and		ider the H	lousing	
		Regulations, 192		0.0		29
	(b) Number of inspection		-			41
(.	3) Number of dwelling-ho					
	· ·	alth as to be un				24
(,	4) Number of dwelling-hor					
		head) found to l	be not in all	respects reas	onably	
	fit for human l	nabitation	****	••••	* * * *	139
2. Re	medy of defects during the ye	ear without service	ce of formal i	notices:		
(l) Number of defective dy	_			ence of	
		n by the local au	•		****	12
(2) Number of dwelling-ho	ouses where wo	rk is in pro	gress but r	ot yet	
	completed		****	••••	****	2
•	3) Number of Notices in co		tion (not yet	served)	••••	
(•	4) Number of Notices outs	tanding		• • • •	***	1
3. Ac	tion under Statutory Powers	during the year	:			
A	A. Proceedings under Sect			_		
	(1) Number of dwelling					
	requiring repair	irs	* * * *	• • • •	• • • •	24
	(2) Number of dwelling		d fit after ser	vice of forma	l notices :	
	(a) By owners			* * * *		23
-		ithority in defau		* * * *	• • • •	
F	B. Proceedings under Publ					
	(1) Number of dwelling				served	
		cts to be remedi				106
	(2) Number of dwelling		ch defects w	ere remedie	d after	
	service of form					100
	(a) By owners			****		106
	(b) By local at	ithority in defau	it of owners	* * * *		

Table V—Housing Statistics—continued.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
 D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936: (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room 	Nil
having been rendered fit	Nil
Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.	
A. 1. Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	33
2. Number of families dwelling therein	45
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	228
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
C. 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	57
D. Particulars of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become over-crowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
SECTION VII	
Sanitary Circumstances of the District	
I give below a table of some of the sanitary work done during the year by Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Hollis.	your
·	
TABLE VI. Nuisance Inspections.	
Total No. of Inspections made for Nuisances only 498(Not including Housing Inspect	ions)
Nuisances found 184 Total needing abatement Nuisances in hand, end of	190
previous year 6 Abated during year Outstanding at end of year	181
Notices served, informal 117 Complied with 111 Notices served, Statutory 64 Complied with 61 Total Number of summonses or other legal proceedings Nil	

Regulated Buildings Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of inspections made	General Condi- tions	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	Nil	Nil	_	_
Houses let in lodgings	Nil	Nil	Nil	_	
Knackers' Yards	Nil	Nil	Nil	_	
Tents, Vans & Sheds	Nil	Nil	Nil	_	_
Slaughterhouses	6	6	At present	unused	

Drainage and Sewerage

New 6 in. branch sewers were laid at the Council's Housing Estate, Liverton Mines. The question of sewering certain outlying villages will arise, particularly in view of the improved water supplies contemplated in connection with the Scaling Scheme of the Cleveland Water Company.

Closet Accommodation

There are 133 privies with fixed receptacles and 365 pail or tub closets in the District. In addition there are 1,632 water closets. 2 privies were reconstructed during the year as water closets, and 24 closets other than privies. 15 water closets were constructed for new houses. The Council allow a grant of £3:10:0 per conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets.

Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation. During the year this service was extended to Liverton Village. The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

Bakehouses

4 bakehouses are situated in the District. 30 inspections of these were carried out.

Fish Frying

74 visits were paid to the 9 fish frying premises in the District.

Icecream

There are 2 premises registered for the sale of this foodstuff.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 & 13

36 visits were paid under the above Sections. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in 3 instances and remedied.

SECTION VIII: Factories Act, 1937:

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the District.

TABLE VII.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	73	4	_
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	_	_	_	_
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3 (Building Sites)	57	-	_
TOTAL	28	130	4	_

2. Cases in which defects were found

Want of cleanliness 3 3 — —

Ineffective drainage of floors 4 4 4 — —

Report to the Port Sanitary Authority for the year 1948

I beg to state that during the year no vessels entered or left the Port of Skinningrove.

In conclusion I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their warm encouragement throughout the year, Mr. J. Baston, the Clerk of the Council for his close co-operation, and Mr. E. Hollis, the Sanitary Inspector, who on all occasions has been most helpful.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant, W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Brotton, 7th June, 1949.



